

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE**

STATE OF WASHINGTON, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DONALD J. TRUMP, in his official  
capacity as President of the United States of  
America, et al.,

Defendants.

NO.

DECLARATION OF KELLY HOWER

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ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON  
Complex Litigation Division  
800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98104  
(206) 464-7744

1 I, Kelly Hower, declare as follows:

2 1. I am over the age of 18, competent to testify as to the matters herein, and attest to  
3 the information set forth below through personal knowledge as well as through Oregon State  
4 University personnel who have assisted me in gathering this information from our institution.

5 2. I earned my B.S. in Biology from Oregon State University, my A.A.A.S in  
6 Nursing from Shoreline Community College, and a M.S.N. in Health Systems Leadership from  
7 Gonzaga University.

8 3. I am the Executive Director for Oregon State University Student Health Services.

9 4. As Executive Director for Student Health Services, I lead a team of clinicians and  
10 other professionals to provide essential medical and mental health care, prevention  
11 programming, advocacy and wellness services to more than 22,000 enrolled students.

12 **Gender-Affirming Care at Oregon State University**

13 5. Student Health Services at Oregon State University offers gender affirming care  
14 as part of their commitment to providing excellent evidence-based, equitable, personalized  
15 health care services that strive to meet the needs of all students. The program includes a  
16 multidisciplinary team of health professionals who support the health and well-being of  
17 transgender and gender diverse students. As is true for all students, comprehensive primary  
18 care is also offered, including mental health and reproductive health services.

19 6. The standard of care for gender affirming services at Student Health Services  
20 includes evidence-based, personalized health care tailored to meet the needs of transgender and  
21 gender diverse students. This includes hormone therapy, mental health support, and surgical  
22 referrals. The program ensures that services are accessible and appropriate for college-aged  
23 individuals.

24 7. The standards of care for gender affirming services at Student Health Services  
25 are based on extensive research and clinical experience, and they are endorsed by major  
26 medical organizations such as the United States and World Professional Associations for



1 Transgender Health (USPATH and WPATH), the American Academy of Family Physicians  
 2 (AAFP) and the American Association of Clinical Endocrinology (AACE). The care provided  
 3 at Student Health Services is guided by these standards, ensuring that students receive high-  
 4 quality, evidence-based care.

5 8. Education is one of the three core tenets of Oregon State University's mission.  
 6 The inability to provide medically necessary health care will impede its ability to ensure that  
 7 students remain enrolled and able to pursue their educational goals.

8 **Familiarity with the Executive Order**

9 9. I am aware that President Trump issued an Executive Order on January 28, 2025  
 10 characterizing certain aspects of gender affirming care as "chemical and surgical mutilation" and  
 11 directing the heads of federal executive departments and agencies to take immediate steps to  
 12 ensure that institutions receiving Federal research or education grants stop providing gender  
 13 affirming care to individuals under 19 years of age.

14 10. I am aware that Oregon State University's research enterprise receives significant  
 15 funding through federal research awards, and if the federal government were to stop providing  
 16 research and education grants to Oregon State University, the impacts would be devastating to  
 17 its operations and disrupt critical research in areas such as integrated health and biotechnology,  
 18 robotics, agriculture, food and beverages, semiconductors, and artificial intelligence.

19 11. I am aware that on February 3, 2025, the White House issued a statement claiming  
 20 that certain health care institutions, including those that are part of or affiliated with universities,  
 21 have stopped or are considering stopping providing gender affirming care to patients under 19  
 22 years of age citing the potential loss of federal research and education funds as a result of the  
 23 January 28, 2025 Executive Order.

24 12. Without conceding that Oregon State University's Student Health Services is a  
 25 "medical institution", as that term is defined under Section 4 of the Executive Order, I think it  
 26 likely that the broad language and lack of definitions for key terms will result in relevant federal

1 agencies interpreting the language in such a manner, and requiring Oregon State University to  
 2 choose between providing critical, life-saving care to its students, and receiving education and  
 3 research funding critical to its mission.

4 **Harms to Oregon State University from the Executive Order**

5 13. The education of students is one of the three core tenets of Oregon State  
 6 University's mission, and it is primary among them. In order to meet its educational mission,  
 7 which includes recruiting students, and then supporting them through their successful  
 8 graduation, the university must be able to serve students' primary needs, including medical  
 9 needs.

10 14. Students who have a need but are unable to obtain gender affirming care face  
 11 significant mental and physical health risks. Those risks include increased anxiety, depression,  
 12 and likelihood of suicide or self-harm, and other health complications ranging from physical  
 13 discomfort to severe illness or life-threatening conditions. Those realized risks would have a  
 14 direct impact on students' ability to stay enrolled and pursue and complete their education goals,  
 15 impacting both their academic progress and future professional opportunities.

16 15. If Oregon State University is unable to provide gender affirming care to students  
 17 who need it, it's ability to fulfill its educational mission will be directly impacted.

18 16. I am not aware of Oregon State University having ever received federal grant  
 19 funding contingent upon it *not* providing a particular type of medical treatment or medical care  
 20 through its Student Health Services. Indeed, I am not aware of this type of funding condition  
 21 having ever been placed on Oregon State University.

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1 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the Oregon and the United States of  
2 America that the foregoing is true and correct.

3 DATED this 2/5/2025 day of February 2025, at Corvallis, Oregon.

4 DocuSigned by:

5 *Kelly Hower*

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6 KELLY HOWER  
7 Executive Director, Oregon State University  
8 Student Health Services  
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